



The European Union Follow-Up Mission acknowledged progress and encouraged electoral reforms not to be forgotten

Bogotá, 28 February 2025

A European Union Election Follow-Up Mission (EU EFM) has been in Colombia since 9 February 2025 to assess progress on electoral reform and the degree of implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM).

The EU EFM is led by Javi López, Vice-President of the European Parliament and former Chief Observer of the EU EOM. Over the past few days, the mission has met with a wide range of interlocutors, including members of the Government and Congress, the Judiciary, the National Electoral Council (CNE), the National Civil Registry (RNEC), as well as representatives of political parties, civil society and the international community.

During the meetings, Javi López noted progress in the implementation of some recommendations, in particular those addressed to the CNE and RNEC. He also had the opportunity to learn first-hand about the legislative initiatives for electoral and political reform that have been discussed since the last legislative and presidential elections.

At a press conference today, López expressed his satisfaction with this progress and with the fact that the political and electoral reforms that have been discussed in Congress over the past three years have covered issues that the 2022 mission identified in its recommendations. *"The political and electoral reforms, including a new election law, that have been debated in Congress—some of which have been approved—have modified elements of the legislation that the 2022 Mission recommended be changed. I am glad to see that these reforms aligned with our recommendations."*

"Javi López regretted, however, that the new election law could not take effect, as it failed to pass the required constitutional review due to procedural flaws in the parliamentary process. *"I urge that these reforms are not forgotten or seen as a lost opportunity. Having said this, it is essential to recognise that all electoral and political reforms must adhere to the legally established procedures required for their implementation."*

Javi López stated that the final report of the EU EOM 2022 highlighted *"the robustness of both the electoral legal framework and the electoral administration."* The mission proposed 25 recommendations, six of which were considered priorities. Among other issues addressed in the debated electoral and political reforms, the EU observation mission suggested consolidating electoral legislation into a single code to unify scattered and sometimes unclear regulations, eliminating permanent disqualifications for candidates, ensuring gender parity and alternation in candidate lists, simplifying the selection process of polling station members, making change of electoral addresses a permanent process, and establishing realistic deadlines for filing complaints.

"On February 28, the EU EFM organized a roundtable where participants—including electoral authorities, legislators, civil society, and the media—discussed the progress made in implementing the recommendations and the next steps for electoral reform.

In the coming weeks, the EU Election Follow-Up Mission will release a final report outlining its findings on the implementation status of the 2022 mission's recommendations.

The complete repository of reports and recommendations of EU Election Observation Missions, including those of Colombia, is available at: <http://database.eueom.eu>.